

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMFINAL
FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Prosser House

AND/OR COMMON

Prosser House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1454 East 10th Street

CITY, TOWN

Indianapolis

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

11th

STATE

Indiana

CODE

18

COUNTY

Marion

CODE

097

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ COMMERCIAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☐ PARK
☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Frances M. Howard & John Paul Seiberling

STREET & NUMBER

1454 East Tenth Street

CITY, TOWN

Indianapolis

VICINITY OF

STATE

Indiana

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Marion County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

East Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Indianapolis

STATE

Indiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

HABS

DATE

1958, 1959

☒ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

HABS

CITY, TOWN

Washington, D.C.

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE 1880

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

In the 1880's William Prosser, an English decorative plaster worker took over a wooden frame lathea stucco cover home onto which he applied decoration and design in cast concrete concomitant with the elaborate plaster work of the interior the result was a small (38' x 50') 1 1/2 story cross gabled structure with charming details. The 5 dormers which pierce the roof are relatively simple, however tying the roof line to the walls is a heavy classical ogee moulding resting on a cornice under which dentils continue around the entire structure. Moulded window caps are supported by voluted brackets rising from simulated pilasters on either side, which in turn are supported by an ogee moulded sill resting on corbels. A simulated subbase riser to 18" and ties to the wall with a small moulding. The stucco walls are scored in the manner to suggest Caen stone and repeat the joints of the 9" x 18" blocks of the studio at the front, while the corners are accented by heavy stucco quoining. A small front porch (completely restored) fits into the south-east corner between the studio and the body of the house. Triple arched windows in the studio are separated by four fluted pilasters and capped with vermiculated keystones; above projects a decorative shelf, supported by consoles, as a base for the window in the front gable. In the east gable a small decorative seraph masks a small ventilating window, the one in the opposite (west) gable having been destroyed. The kitchen, bath and small porch at the rear are a lean-to addition: above these was probably at one time a small porch with a door opening from the upstairs.

Of the six rooms on the first floor the music studio, bed-room and dining room have been completely restored, while the ornate ceilings in the living room and art studio are in the process of being cleaned and repaired. The moulded ceiling decorations in these last two rooms rely heavily on classical motifs, - tongue-and-dart, acanthus, anthemion, etc., as borders to break the areas into formal patterns, while the music studio tends towards a renaissance treatment of faces, flowers and arabesques. In these rooms the 18" baseboard is also a moulded plaster. The plaster work in the two upstairs rooms have fallen into disrepair.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1880's

BUILDER/ARCHITECT William Prosser

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Prosser House, built in the 1880's is undoubtedly one of the most unusual and interesting small old houses in the city. The proportion and interesting detail mark it as an outstanding example of domestic architecture, particularly for the period when the jig-saw was torturing wood into veritable nightmares of decoration, even in the lavish mansions being built at the time. And it is quite possible that it could be the only example in the country showing the innovative use of cement cast for decorative use in architecture and achieving such clean detail as to foot the eye of experts as to the medium employed.

Naturally the ornate plaster-work of the interior would almost never be found in such a small house, and in this case only because the builder-owner was an artist in his own right. Although elaborate in the extreme the ensemble is kept within reason by the restraint of an excellent sense of desing. This may well be the only remaining example of the work of this master craftsman for the last public building for which his work was commissioned was the Claypool Hotel, the one truly plush hotel the city boasted, now demolished and soon to be forgotten.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 474195 4403650
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

ORGANIZATION Frances M. Howard

DATE

7/14/75

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

1454 East Tenth Street

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Indianapolis

Indianapolis

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER